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United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

Letter dated 29 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as representative of the current Chair of the African Union, to transmit herewith the decision on the report on the activities of the African Union Commission on International Law (EX.CL/861(XXV)), adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its twenty-fifth ordinary session, held in Malabo from 20 to 24 June 2014.

Given the importance of international law training for African lawyers and the forthcoming consideration of this matter in the Sixth Committee, I should be grateful if the present letter and the decision contained in its annex, which calls upon all United Nations Member States to strongly support the Programme of Assistance, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 80.

(*Signed*) Sidi Mohamed Ould **Boubacar**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chair of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision on the activity report of the African Union Commission on International Law (EX.CL/861(XXV))

The Executive Council,

1. *Takes note* of the activity report of the African Union Commission on International Law for the period from May 2013 to June 2014 together with the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of legal studies on various issues carried out by the Commission on the request of the policy organs of the Union and also those initiated by itself;

3. *Recalls* Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.777(XXIII), which requests that the relevant sub-committee of the Permanent Representatives Committee consider strengthening this organ, including expanding the structure of its secretariat in accordance with Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.720(XXI);

4. *Requests* the relevant sub-committee of the Permanent Representatives Committee to consider the proposed expansion of the structure of the secretariat and report to policy organs in June/July 2015;

5. *Recalls* Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.777(XXIII), as well as United Nations General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, adopted following an initiative by the Republic of Ghana, in which the Assembly established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States;

6. *Once again requests* the African Group in New York, through the Commission, and also calls upon all United Nations Member States to strongly support the successive requests by the General Assembly to the Secretary General to provide in the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and future bienniums the resources necessary to ensure the continued effectiveness and further development of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the organization of the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa and other similar United Nations regional courses on a regular basis and the viability of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, as contained in resolutions 66/97, 67/91 and 68/110;

7. *Encourages*:

(a) The African Union Commission on International Law, within the limits of available resources, to bolster its activities in the development and codification of international law with specific focus on African Union law. In this regard, draft conventions should be initiated in areas of specific interest to the African Union;

(b) Member States and other organs of the Union to extend the necessary support to the Commission in the preparation of its studies by, inter alia, providing information that the Commission may need for this purpose on issues of international law of interest to the African Union.